

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANPOWER UTILIZATION AND DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JAMES C. DAVIS
AT HEARINGS NOVEMBER 2, 1955.

The meeting will come to order.

This is a meeting of the Subcommittee on Manpower Utilization and Departmental Personnel Practices.

We are happy to have with us today Mr. Murray, Chairman of the full Committee, and Mr. Rees, Ranking Minority Member, who are both ex-officio members of this Subcommittee and vitally interested in our progress.

Under House Resolution No. 304, this Subcommittee has been assigned responsibility to conduct a thorough study of civilian manpower utilization in the Government, directed at prompt elimination of non-essential payroll costs. As I have stated before, I am convinced that the Federal Government can accomplish its essential tasks with two million or less employees. Frills in government which add needlessly to the payroll are luxuries we cannot afford when weighed against the urgency of reducing government expenditures.

I am convinced that the Federal Government can reduce its payroll to two million employees, or less, and still perform efficiently every essential government service. I am also convinced that such reduction can be made without serious hardship to agencies or employees, and that it can be done without moving uniformed or military personnel into positions now occupied by civilian employees.

The hearing today has been called for the purpose of reviewing the status of the manpower studies and actions taken to date by the various departments and agencies.

On behalf of the Subcommittee, I wish to say we hope to proceed with the full cooperation of the departments and agencies, since we all should have the same objective in mind.

The positive action to reduce civilian payrolls taken recently by the Secretary of Defense is particularly noteworthy. We hope to see all departments and agencies take similar positive steps. These hearings will, in time, give everyone an opportunity to present what has been accomplished.

In order that we may start with an understanding of what has transpired, I will summarize briefly the steps taken to date.

Mr. Murray, on July 14, 1955, wrote to the departments and certain agencies requesting that they designate liaison officers to work with this Subcommittee. This Subcommittee appreciates the spirit of cooperation it is receiving from many of the departments and agencies.

On September 22, 1955, a meeting was held here with the liaison officers of the departments and major agencies at which I explained the objectives, scope and general procedures of this government-wide analysis of manpower needs, requirements and utilization. Mr. Corbett, Chairman of the Subcommittee in the last Congress and present Ranking Minority Member, was present and expressed a keen interest in a continuing program to bring about better utilization of manpower. He regrets that the pressure of work in his district prevents his being with us this week.

Subsequent to the meeting, seminar sessions were held with team captains of the departments and agencies at which time a memorandum entitled "Seminar on Manpower Utilization in the Federal Government"

was furnished to all representatives. This memorandum is designed to serve as a guide for specific actions to be considered.

Staff members have since been in contact with representatives of many of the departments and agencies to assist in the development of pertinent information.

Mr. Murray and I met to discuss the results of these meetings and to answer questions which were raised. These answers have been furnished you.

In response to our requests, we have received from most of the departments and agencies a report on basic manpower controls and a letter pertaining to actions taken to implement the four suggested steps directed at reducing manpower. We will take up a discussion of these and other points during these hearings.